Secondly, dung manure being insufficient to cope with the extension of agriculture, other manures were necessary. To meet the increased demand, prepared manure was being imported from foreign countries which drained away much of the saving of the ryots. Artificial manures should be prepared in Travancore and importation entirely stopped. Such manures should be sold on credit to agriculturists through depots. The agriculturists who grew green-leaf manure on Government *porambokes* were being persecuted by the land revenue authorities with fines and prohibitory assessments. Such a procedure was detrimental to agriculture and therefore orders should be issued permitting the growing of green-leaf manure on *poramboke* lands and on the banks of tanks and channels.

The Agricultural Loans Regulation was not properly worked as a result of the delay in granting loans and as a result of the borrowers not applying the loan to agricultural purposes. The consequence was that agriculture did not really derive any benefit from the loans and it was necessary that Government should prevent the misapplication of the loans. The Regulation could be better worked by the Agricultural Department as the officers of that department had facilities to come into closer contact with the agriculturists and to see if the full amount of the loan was invested on land.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kumaravelu Panikkar, several of the points in your representation have already been taken up in this Assembly. There is one point, however, in respect of which it is necessary to answer you specifically, and that is on the subject of insufficiency of cattle and grazing grounds. It is not possible to say to what extent the one influences the other. It may be that the people in the country find it much more profitable to bring the lands under cultivation than to let them lie as grazing grounds. That may directly affect the condition of the cattle and their number. Because there are insufficient grazing grounds, therefore, of necessity the cattle must be small in number. Or, it may be the other way. Because of the unsuitability and the inferior quality of the cattle, it is not worth while to retain extensive grounds as grazing grounds.

2. Every effort is being made to improve the breed of the cattle in this country. One thing we have got to remember and that is that the country is hardly suited by nature to be a pastoral country, and our Agricultural Department which deals with cattle is for ever faced with the hopelessness of maintaining the breed of cattle. Rapid deterioration seems to be the universal order here. In two or three generations the cattle which begin by being good deteriorate into the stunted and diminutive variety you see all over the country. Until the people learn to take a pride in their cattle and learn how to breed their cattle and how to preserve the breed, it will be impossible for the Government to do more than what they are doing now and what they have been consistently doing for some time past, apparently with little or no effect.

3. Grazing grounds, I have already mentioned to you, are a real difficulty. People here want to bring every inch of land under cultivation, because it pays them better, and secondly, the formation of the country is such that, unless you go into the High Ranges, possibly there is very little ground for grazing purposes. There is no good trying to bring into this country conditions which do not exist. All that we can do is to adapt ourselves to the circumstances in which we find ourselves. The only hope of improving the position of the cattle is for the people to acquire the habits of stall feeding and stall culture of cattle.

54. Development of commerce and industries.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that commerce deserved an important place in the thoughts and activities of the Government as it was the foundation of all progress. The development of commerce was essential if Travancore were to advance economically in the scale of nations. The Member said he would repeat the representation he had made at the twentieth session and state what action had or had not been taken on his suggestions then made. There was no separate department for commerce and no responsible official whom the people could approach for consultation in regard to mercantile matters.

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He had hoped that the services of Mr. A. Gopala Menon who had been sent on State expense to study banking and commerce would on his return be utilised in furtherance of commerce and banking. The fear then expressed that Mr. Gopala Menon might be retained in the college itself had proved true.

The Member then referred to the vexatious demands of the Income Tax Department, and to the case of a merchant in Chalai who was assessed to income tax though his liabilities were reported to be forty to fifty thousand rupees and who since then applied for being declared insolvent.

There was no union among the merchants themselves. The assistance of the Government was necessary and the formation of a department of commerce would be a boon. The merchants had to rely on European agents for their export trade. Strangers came into the country and were given big contracts without any enquiry into their status or antecedents.

The Member also referred to what he had said at the twentieth session of the Assembly about agricultural and commercial loans, the Cochin Harbour Scheme, State-aided bank, and the extension of the railway to Nagercoil. He had also urged the need for starting suitable factory industries by the Government after duly satisfying themselves as to their financial success. He had mentioned the delay in payment of contractor's bills, particularly in Trivandrum where they had been obliged to wait for years to get their money. He said he had with him petitions from thirty-two contractors. The grievances of the contractors should be redressed and due publicity should always be given when tenders were invited.

It was necessary to help indigenous banking concerns against whom unfortunately some sort of prejudice existed. It was hoped that the State-aided bank would come into operation soon, and that no efforts would be spared to make it a thoroughly useful and progressive institution and to entrust it to capable, efficient and honest hands.

The control of the joint stock companies being vested in the Director of Registration who had his own heavy legistimate duties, that officer could not find adequate time to guide and control them. There should be a sympathetic officer in intimate touch with these concerns and he should have statistics of their condition. The organisation of the trade of the country under the sympathetic advice of a department and freedom from petty exactions by the Revenue Department, Magistracy, Municipality, etc., were required more than anything else.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eapen, you may rest assured that the Chief Engineer and I will look to the parlous state of the long suffering contractors.

2. Also, in the matter of joint stock companies, I shall give my personal attention to what you have to-day brought to my notice. But I cannot help remarking that the remedy in the case of these languishing companies lies mainly in the hands of the share-holders. In many a case of this kind, it is not right that the Government should move until they are moved. The State-aided bank will soon be at work and I hope it will be possible to place it in the arms, during its infancy, of some strong and experienced nurse. For the rest of your representations, I have listened with interest to your resuscitations and let me revivify Government's reply of two years ago. The fact that you based your remarks on certain broad principles is conclusive proof that those principles are as true to-day as they were two years ago.

55. Flood damages and restoration works in Nanjinad.

MR. CHEMPAKAKANNU PILLAI NAGARU PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) remarked that the restoration works to channel bunds and embankments of tanks executed by the Public Works Department were quite unsubstantial and as a result breaches occurred at the very same places during the succeeding rainy season. If such works were carried out under the supervision of the ryots interested in the

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